

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104751
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 SIG-03
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

-----045034 250201Z /73

O 250042Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
DOD WASHDC
/USICA

UNCLAS STATE 104751

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 24

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 24, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY EXACT DATE FOR BEGIN'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON?

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A. THE BEGIN VISIT I THINK IS BEING ANNOUNCED TODAY AT THE
WHITE HOUSE. I BELIEVE THEY WILL SAY THAT MR. BEGIN WILL
BE ATTENDING A RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN HONOR OF
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. BUT FOR
DETAILS AS TO EXACTLY WHEN THAT RECEPTION IS, I THINK I'LL
HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. YOU'VE TOLD US THAT THE LATEST ROUND OF MIDDLE EAST
DIPLOMACY -- SPECIFICALLY, THE ATHERTON TRIP -- WAS
ESSENTIALLY A MEANS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT. BUT WITH
MR. BEGIN COMING HERE AND SO ON AND APPARENTLY GOING TO
MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INTIMATIONS
THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE WHITE HOUSE ARE PLANNING
TO INTRODUCE SOME NEW PROPOSALS INTO THE NEGOTIATING

PROCESS -- APPARENTLY MORE SPECIFICALLY, AND SO ON. DO
YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, WE DO NOT HAVE A PLAN OR
A BLUEPRINT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE PLAYING AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATION FOR AN OVERALL
PEACE SETTLEMENT, AND WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK WE WILL

PRESENT IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS OF OUR OWN WHEN WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE USEFUL IN MOVING THE PROCESS FORWARD, BUT I HAVE SAID THERE IS NO U.S. PLAN.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THE TIME IS NEW PROPITIOUS FOR PRESENTING IDEAS AND PROPOSALS OF YOUR OWN?

A. I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS I SAID BEFORE AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH THE EGYPTIANS THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING AND THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND I THINK WE WILL WANT TO HEAR WHAT AMBASSADOR ATHERTON HAS TO SAY BEFORE I REALLY COULD GET INTO THAT QUESTION WITH YOU.

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2. ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN AND POSTED IN PRESS OFFICE.

Q. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF HULL'S VISIT TO THE SETTLEMENT AT HARIS?

A. VICE CONSUL HULL WAS TRAVELLING IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT TO WHICH HE IS ASSIGNED, WHICH IS A ROUTINE CONSULAR PRACTICE. IN THE COURSE OF THESE VISITS, IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS TO CALL ON LOCAL OFFICIALS. HIS TRIP TO THE SETTLEMENT AT HARIS FALLS INTO THIS CONTEXT, AND NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO IT.

Q. ARE THERE A SET OF PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN ARRANGING FOR AND MAKING VISITS TO SUCH SETTLEMENTS?

A. CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAVE ROUTINELY VISITED SETTLEMENTS IN THE PAST WITHOUT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. AS THE SPOKESMAN NOTED WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MISUNDERSTANDING OVER VICE CONSUL HULL'S VISIT WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, AND THEY HAVE TOLD US THEY CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED.

VANCE

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